

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a liquid energy carrier ~~from a synthesis gas which is produced~~ comprising producing a synthesis gas by gasification of gasifying a solid carbon carrier in a plant which comprises at least a drying apparatus for drying the carbon carrier, a gasification apparatus for gasifying the carbon carrier and for producing the synthesis gas, a synthesis apparatus for the synthesis of the liquid energy carrier from the synthesis gas and an apparatus for the electrolysis of water for producing oxygen as gasification agent for the gasification process in the gasification apparatus and hydrogen for the synthesis process in the synthesis apparatus, ~~characterized in that~~ and feeding at least part of ~~[[the]]~~ off-vapor from the drying apparatus and at least part of ~~[[the]]~~ residual gas obtained in the synthesis ~~is fed~~ to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus.

2. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising feeding carbon-containing residues from the gasification apparatus and part of the oxygen produced in the apparatus for the electrolysis of

water ~~are fed~~ to ~~[[the]]~~ combustion process in a combustion apparatus ~~within the compact plant.~~

3. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solid carbon carrier ~~selected~~ is one which has a reduced heating value and is, in accordance with its starting structure, conditioned to the required extent before introduction into the drying apparatus.

4. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising feeding the CO₂- and oxygen-containing offgas from the combustion apparatus ~~is fed~~ as gasification agent to the gasification apparatus.

5. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising carrying out the drying process for the carbon carrier in the drying apparatus ~~for producing an~~ thereby to produce the off-vapor ~~which is being~~ free of incondensable components ~~is, the drying process being~~ carried out in a closed system and without entraining air.

6. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5;~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, further comprising condensing in a condenser

the off-vapor from the drying apparatus which is not fed to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus ~~is condensed in a condenser.~~

7. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, further comprising purifying and/or cooling the
synthesis gas ~~is subjected to purification and/or cooling~~ before introduction of the
synthesis gas into the synthesis apparatus.

8. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 2 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 2, further comprising feeding residues from the gas
purification and/or residual gas from the synthesis apparatus ~~which is not fed to~~
the gasification process in the gasification apparatus ~~are/is fed~~ to the combustion
process in the combustion apparatus.

9. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 2, further comprising introducing the waste heat
obtained in the gasification process and/or the synthesis of the liquid energy
carrier and/or, ~~if appropriate,~~ the combustion process and/or the gas purification
into the drying apparatus and introducing cooling is introduced into the drying
apparatus.

10. (Currently amended) A plant for producing a liquid energy carrier from a synthesis gas which is produced by gasification of a solid carbon carrier, ~~which comprises~~ comprising at least a drying apparatus for drying the carbon carrier, a gasification apparatus for gasifying the carbon carrier, a synthesis apparatus for the synthesis of the liquid energy carrier from the synthesis gas, ~~[[and]]~~ an apparatus for the electrolysis of water for producing oxygen as gasification agent for the gasification process in the gasification apparatus and hydrogen for the synthesis process in the synthesis apparatus, ~~characterized in that~~ and a combustion apparatus which is connected to ~~[[the]]~~ an outlet for carbon-containing gasification residues from the gasification apparatus and ~~[[the]]~~ an oxygen outlet of the apparatus for the electrolysis of water ~~is present~~.

11. (Currently amended) The plant as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gasification apparatus is connected to ~~[[the]]~~ an outlet for a residual gas from the synthesis on the synthesis apparatus.

12. (Currently amended) The plant as claimed in claim 10 or 11, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising an apparatus for gas purification and/or cooling ~~is present~~ positioned between the gasification apparatus and/or the synthesis apparatus and/or the combustion apparatus.

13. (Currently amended) The plant as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 12,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 10 or 11, further comprising at least one apparatus for
gas purification and/or cooling ~~is configured as~~ which comprises a fluidized-bed
apparatus with integrated steam generation and ~~[[the]]~~ an outlet for the steam
~~[[is]]~~ connected to an inlet for heating steam on the drying apparatus.

14. (Currently amended) The plant as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 13,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 10 or 11, further comprising a waste heat collection
apparatus which collects the waste heat from the gasification apparatus and/or the
synthesis apparatus and/or the combustion apparatus and passes it to the drying
apparatus ~~is present~~.

15. (Currently amended) The plant as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 14,~~
~~characterized in that the~~ claim 10 or 11, further comprising an outlet for ~~[[the]]~~
off-vapor from the drying apparatus and/or ~~[[the]]~~ an outlet for ~~[[the]]~~ residual gas
from the synthesis apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the gasification apparatus ~~[[and]]~~
through a device for regulating ~~[[the]]~~ amount of the off-vapor and/or the residual
gas ~~is present in this connection~~.